

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-25 and 39 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 20, and 22 and cancel Claim 4.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 39 is allowed, and that Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended Claim 22 to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-14, 18, 19, 21, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. (U.S. 6,262,513) in view of JP 2002-217220 and JP 7-176565. Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. in view of JP '220 and JP '565, and further in view of Uchikoba (US 2002/0044030). Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. in view of JP '220 and JP '565, and further in view of JP 61-295025. Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. in view of JP '220 and JP '565, and further in view of Bureau et al. (U.S. 6,492,194).

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include all of the features recited in allowable Claim 4, amended Claims 5 and 20 to be in independent form including all of the features of Claim 1, amended Claim 7 to be dependent upon Claim 1, and amended Claim 8 to be dependent upon Claim 20. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the prior art rejections cited above are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 5, and 20 are allowable. Claims 2 and 5-25 depend upon Claims 1 and 20, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons Claims 1 and 20 are allowable. Claim 39 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a One-Month Extension of Time, extending to August 28, 2006, the period for response to the Office Action dated April 28, 2006

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Christopher A. Bennett #46,710/
Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710

KEATING & BENNETT LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 637-1480
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499